

USEFUL LINKS

HIGHPOINT WEBSITE

WWW.HIGHPOINT-
LAWOFFICES.COM

FRIEND US ON FACEBOOK!

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM
(SEARCH FOR PETER
GILBERT IN THE
PHILADELPHIA NETWORK)

HIGHPOINT LAW OFFICES MEET-UP PAGES

WWW.MEETUP.COM
(SEARCH "BUCKSMONT
RESPONSIBLE PARENTS"
WITH ZIP CODE 18914 OR
"WEALTH
PRESERVATION MEET
UP GROUP" WITH
ZIP CODE 18914)

HIGHPOINT LAW OFFICES UPCOMING EVENTS

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UPCOMING EVENTS TAB)

A NOTE FROM PETER....

The people I appreciate the opportunity to work with the most . . .

- Their family / loved ones are important to them
- They want to make the world a better place for others
- They have a passion for living and learning
- They don't want their heirs to lose the satisfaction of earning a living
- They understand that the most important things they do for their heirs they have already done
- They understand the importance of "The Ships" in estate planning: ownership, relationship, stewardship
- They are insightful and appreciate comprehensiveness
- They share their life experiences from which I may learn
- They come in as a referral



A conversation about "ships"...

Q: What were the names of Columbus' ships?

A: Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria

(I have yet to meet someone who doesn't remember at least two of the ships)

Q: How long ago was that?

A: A long time, 500 years

Q: When was the last time it was really important for you to know the names of those three ships?

A: Grade school

Let me teach you about three ships that are really important to do good Estate Planning...

Ownership: That is how the lawyers and courts will determine what happens to your stuff, or however you want to briefly explain. Most wills and trusts will deal with this.

In This Issue

Page 1 - A Note From Peter

Page 1 - Useful Links

Page 1 - Contact Us!

Page 2 - A Note From Peter
(continued)

Page 2 - Feature Article

Page 2 - Upcoming Events

Page 3 - Feature Article (continued)

Page 4 - Meet The Team!

Page 4 - Peter's Final Thoughts...

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Relationship: This is where we talk about what you do or don't do, and how it may have lasting impacts on the people you love and care about. That is why we will spend some time learning about you and your family.

Stewardship: This means you have the ability to make decisions or not make decisions over assets that you control. How do your decisions demonstrate and strengthen what is most important to you?

—Peter Gilbert



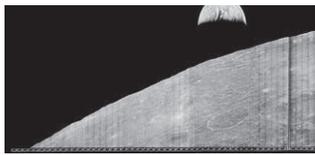
UPCOMING EVENTS

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Feature Article

Rising over the battered surface of the moon, Earth loomed in a shimmering arc covered in a swirling skin of clouds. The image, taken in 1966 by NASA's robotic probe Lunar Orbiter 1, presented a stunning juxtaposition of planet and moon that no earthling had ever seen before:



It was dubbed the Picture of the Century. "The most beautiful thing I'd ever seen," remembered Keith Cowing, who saw it as an 11-year-old and credited it with eventually luring him to work for NASA. But in the mad rush of discovery, even the breathtaking can get mislaid.

NASA was so preoccupied with getting an astronaut to the moon ahead of the Soviets that little attention was paid to the mountains of scientific data that flowed back to Earth from its early space missions. The data, stored on miles of fragile tapes, grew into mountains that were packed up and sent to a government warehouse with crates of other stuff.

And so they eventually came to the attention of Nancy Evans, a no-nonsense woman with flaming red hair that fit her sometimes impatient nature. She had been trained as a biologist, but within the sprawling space agency she had found her niche as an archivist. Evans was at her desk in the 1970s when a clerk walked into her office, asking what he should do with a truck-sized heap of data tapes that had been released from storage. "What do you usually do with things like that?" she asked. "We usually destroy them," he replied.

WORKHORSE MISSIONS

If there is an unsung hero of the moon race, it is the Lunar Orbiter program of 1966 and 1967. Although their original high-resolution images were saved on 2-inch-wide tape, those pictures weren't seen by the public. The images that scrolled across television screens and appeared on the front pages of newspapers were snapshots of the originals using standard 35-millimeter film. The images were grainy and washed-out, like a poorly tuned television set. One famous shot was a "close up" of the giant Copernicus crater: By the time of the final Apollo mission in 1972, the American public and Congress had begun to lose interest.

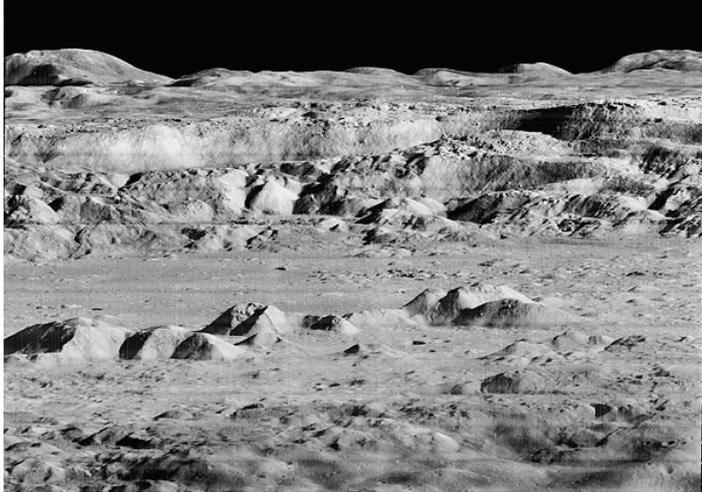
Evans wasn't particularly interested in the moon either when she went to work the next year for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in La Cañada Flintridge. The daughter of a Colorado physician, she had trained in anatomy and the biological sciences. Her bosses saw something in the determined young woman that made them think she would be perfect for a new job in Washington: straightening out NASA's archives. The mountains of data from the early Mercury, Mariner and Gemini missions had become a jumbled mess. Evans turned out to be the perfect choice. She was organized and could take care of herself. She knew her mission: to preserve the history of human space exploration.

When the clerk came in to ask about the Lunar Orbiter tapes, she didn't hesitate. "Do not destroy those tapes," Evans commanded. She talked her bosses at JPL into storing them in a lab warehouse. "I could not morally get rid of this stuff," said Evans, 71, in an interview at her Sun Valley home.

She had no idea what she was letting herself in for. The full collection of Lunar Orbiter data amounted to 2,500 tapes. Assembled on pallets, they constituted an imposing monolith 10 feet wide, 20 feet long and 6 feet high. The mountain of tapes was just part of Evans' new burden. There was no point, she realized, in preserving the tapes unless she also had an FR-900 Ampex tape drive to read them. But only a few dozen of the machines had been made for the military. The \$330,000 tape drives were electronic behemoths, each 7 feet tall and weighing nearly a ton.

Evans scoured salvage lists for a castoff FR-900. As a member of the federal government's Trash Evaluation Board, she was privy to everything being thrown away from government institutions. One day in the late 1980s, she got a call from Eglin Air Force Base in Florida: "We heard you're looking for FR-900s. We've got three of them. Where do you want us to send them?"

Having already stretched her bosses' goodwill at JPL by storing the tapes there, she reluctantly agreed to take the drives herself. Evans stored the three tape drives from Eglin and a fourth she got off a salvage list -- none of which worked -- in her own garage. There they sat, for two decades.



"I was stuck with these drives," Evans said. "I couldn't get rid of them."

SPACE JUNKIE'S HELP

Evans applied regularly to NASA for funding to repair the drives. She was turned down every time. One NASA center estimated it would cost \$6 million to restore the drives and digitize the tapes.

Finally, in 2005, retired and increasingly doubtful that the historic images would ever see the light of day, Evans gave up on NASA and went public. She submitted a paper to a lunar conference stating her plight. Her plea ended up on a blog frequented by space buffs, where it caught the attention of Dennis Wingo, a kind of space junkie extraordinaire.

Author, designer and dreamer, Wingo is well-known in the private space world, the community of activists trying to show that private enterprise can explore space more effectively and cheaply than the government. "I have been working in lunar exploration for 20 years," Wingo said. "I knew the value of the tape drives and the tapes."

Wingo went for a second opinion from his friend Keith Cowing, who worked for NASA for several years and now operates the NASA Watch website, which frequently aims slings and arrows at space agency administrators. Cowing agreed that they had stumbled on a treasure trove of space history.

One evening in April 2007, he and Wingo pulled up to Evans' home with two rented trucks and loaded up the dirty, dusty and broken FR-900s. Three hundred miles later, they pulled up to the gate at Ames Research Center in Mountain View, probably the only NASA institution that would even consider admitting them and their pile of junk.

Ames Director Pete Worden offered space in an abandoned McDonald's that in the heyday of the lunar program had been called "McMoon's." The tape drives were installed where customers once ate fries. Behind the counter, where employees had flipped burgers, stood the massive wall of tapes.

Rebuilding the tape drives turned out to be a lot harder than he expected. They had managed to get \$100,000 from NASA for their project, and decided they would focus their efforts on the Earthrise picture. The drives kept breaking down. They had been at work for three months when Schmidt got a call from Wingo one afternoon. "You'd better get over here." After 42 years, Cowing gazed again at the image of Earth rising above the lunar landscape.

"When that picture came up, I had tears in my eyes," Cowing said. Unlike the picture that the public had seen, this version had twice the resolution and four times the dynamic range. It "was breathtaking," Schmidt said. "It felt like looking into the past."

NEWLY USEFUL

The project has so far cost \$250,000, far less than the \$6-million estimate by NASA. Schmidt flew Nancy Evans up for a small ceremony at Ames in November, when the first image was released. To the old-timers at NASA, she was a heroine, the best example of a person who, in Schmidt's words, "goes far beyond her professional duties" in the name of science.

Evans herself was less impressed. "Anybody in the same place could have done this," she said.

CHECK OUT PAGE 4 TO SEE PETER GILBERT'S FINAL THOUGHTS...

Meet the Team at HighPoint Law Offices!



Each month, we will be highlighting a member of our team! This month we will be focusing on Sarah Curran Smith, one of our newest attorneys in the Lehigh Valley.

Sarah C. Smith is a graduate of Wilkes University and the John Marshall Law School in Chicago. She is admitted to the bar in both New York and Pennsylvania and joined both our firm and the National Network of Estate Planning Attorneys in 2009.

Sarah is the devoted mother to four children: two boys (Tavener - 11 and Angus - 9) and two girls (Esme - 7 and Jemima - 5). Sarah and her husband, Neil, live on property dating back to 1746 in the Lehigh Valley. Sarah's husband works in New York City as a professional Rackets coach and was also a former Singles and Doubles World Champion in Rackets.

Sarah became interested in law at a young age. She comes from a family with five generations of lawyers. Unhappy with the traditional practice of law, Sarah turned to Estate Planning where she felt the practice was more helpful and meaningful to the clients.

For more information about Sarah, please don't hesitate to contact us!

Peter's Final Thoughts...

It happens in families, too – somehow things are set aside, put away, or reorganized. Somehow our minds get cluttered with years, then decades of “stuff” and the brightness of our memories of events and faces gradually dims. And yet even if we didn't realize it then, these events were the milestones, the building blocks great and small, of our lives; those people nudged, pushed, pulled, inspired, toughened us or softened us when we needed it. Those moon photos are a glorious monument to our country's ingenuity and determination to fulfill President Kennedy's promise, and we remember and honour the legions of engineers, scientists, and astronauts who made such spectacular progress a generation ago.

Thanks, then, and praise to Nancy Evans, unsung hero who rescued a national treasure, so it can now be a true legacy of those “moon-race” years.

We encourage you to preserve your treasures – the precious memories, the life lessons, the stories behind the heirlooms – one way is to take advantage of our “Priceless Conversations.” Even though they're easy to do, they provide your family with a unique treasure.

By the way, for more information on the Lunar Orbiter Image Recovery Project (LOIRP) visit <http://www.moonviews.com>.